

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #24**

#### **Summer Announcement #21, District 2 Subsistence and Commercial Fishing Schedules**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 57,400 Chinook salmon through June 25 is well below the historical average of 84,000 for this date. Poor run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 Chinook salmon run continues to develop.

Based on the current assessment information and consistent with preseason management strategies, additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. A reduced subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets is being allowed to target abundant summer chum salmon while avoiding Chinook salmon.

Fishermen in District 2 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the salmon fishing schedules.

**District 2 Subsistence Gillnet Salmon Fishing:** Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for an 18-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, until 12:00 noon, Thursday, June 27, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes.

**District 2 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net:** Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be open with beach seine and dip net gear only. These will be 12-hour commercial fishing periods.

Period #6: 12:00 noon Wednesday, June 26, until 12:00 midnight Wednesday, June 26

Period #7: 12:00 noon Thursday, June 27, until 12:00 midnight Thursday, June 27

Fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

**District 2 Subsistence Beach Seine and Dip Net:** Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 with beach seine and dip net gear only will be open at the same times as these commercial fishing periods. Subsistence fishermen are also required to immediately release Chinook salmon alive from these gear types.

Beach seine and dip net gear specifications are the same for both commercial and subsistence fishing. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Beach seines must be set from the beach and hauled to the beach. Dip net mesh size is restricted to 4.5-inch or smaller. However, a commercial permit holder may operate up to four dip nets while subsistence fishermen may only operate one dip net per person.

Fishermen have been in compliance with the regulations regarding new gear types. However, fishermen are reminded that the requirement to release Chinook salmon will be strictly enforced. Great care must be taken to assure Chinook salmon are released unharmed so that they can swim the long distance upriver and spawn successfully.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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